

Ethiopian hijack shortlived

SANA (AP) — An Ethiopian passenger plane bound for Addis Ababa was briefly hijacked Monday and landed in the Yemeni capital, where all 156 passengers and crew members were safely released, an official announcement said. The Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 707 was on a flight from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. It was commanded by a lone Ethiopian pirate as it approached Djibouti for a scheduled transit stop on its way to the Ethiopian capital. Mohammad Abdullah Al Faqeeh, director-general of Sanaa international airport, said that the air pirate stormed the cockpit and demanded that the plane be diverted to London. Authorities in southern Yemen denied the plane permission to land in Aden for refueling. Djibouti also refused to receive the aircraft. The plane circled for two hours over the Red Sea country until Sanaa allowed it to land here.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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U.S. accepts Aqaba-based sanction-verification regime

King meets Christopher in London, says siege being lifted

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES has accepted a Jordanian proposal on a new land-based system for verifying compliance with the international sanctions against Iraq and the arrangement would be in place soon, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday.

The acceptance came after months of deliberations which prompted His Majesty King Hussein to link Jordan's return to the Washington-backed peace talks with Israel to an end to the sea-based inspections of all Jordan-bound vessels by a U.S.-led naval force.

Mr. Christopher made the announcement after meeting His Majesty King Hussein in London.

"I informed His Majesty that subject to some fine-tuning the U.S. government will support the establishment of a land-based regime for verifying enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Iraq," Mr. Christopher said in a prepared statement.

"Inspection will be carried

out by a private, independent, not-for-profit company of an international stature and integrity, the Lloyds Register of the United Kingdom which will operate in the port of Aqaba," he said.

The U.S. is convinced that this new regime will be as effective as the MIF (multinational interception force) in guaranteeing that no Iraqi trade will transact Aqaba other than the transactions which have been specifically permitted by the United Nations.

"Indeed we believe that in some respect the land-based inspections would be an improvement in our ability to enforce sanctions against Iraq."

Also addressing the press after the meeting at his residence at Ascot, west of London, the King said that the secretary of state had told him that "the siege of Aqaba" is being lifted and they have accepted our own suggestion for another method.

"They have accepted our

view concerning the siege and the treatment of Jordan in a manner that we could not bear or accept," the King said. "The problem is being solved in an appropriate manner."

Asked whether Jordan had accepted a date to return to the peace talks with Israel, the King reiterated Jordan's commitment to the Middle East and said: "We will look at developments that occur."

"We have offered a lot to attain a just peace... perhaps more than any other party," said the King. "We are committed to do the impossible for that peace and the return of the Palestinian rights."

In Amman earlier in the day, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali told reporters that the concerned U.S. agencies and departments have reached a "consensus" on the Jordanian proposal for a land-based regime at Aqaba to verify the enforcement of sanctions against Iraq.

But Dr. Majali stressed that the proposal did not simply replace the sea-based "inspections" with on-shore "inspections."

There is a definite difference between "inspection" and "observation," he said, adding that Lloyds Register will be free to see all incoming and outgoing cargo when it is inspected by Jordan's customs department as is required by the Kingdom's law and make reports.

But it will not do any "inspections," he stressed.

"Aqaba is not on the border between Jordan and Iraq," he said. "Aqaba is our border with the outside world," he said, adding that as such Jordan would not accept any arrangement that would infringe upon its sovereignty.

It was not immediately clear whether the "fine-tuning" that Mr. Christopher mentioned was a reference to a common ground between "inspection" and "observation."

The U.S. official did say, however, that the U.S. needed to consult its partners in the MIF before finalising the arrangement.

According to Jordanian offi-

cials and diplomats in Amman, the U.S. allies, particularly Britain and France, were supportive of the Jordanian stand and there should not be any major problem before the arrangement goes into place at Aqaba.

According to a U.S. official who briefed reporters, Jordan will pay for the new system. He indicated the new system would be operating within several weeks.

A spokeswoman for Lloyd's Register confirmed that the company had been approached but no agreement had been concluded.

The U.S. official, who briefed reporters Monday estimated that about one in 10 ships headed for Jordan were turned away.

The official said Jordan had complained of losing \$300 million a year because of the marine interceptions, while the land-based system will cost an estimated \$2 million to \$3 million a year.

Lloyd's Register, founded in 1760, describes itself as the world's leading ship classifica-



His Majesty King Hussein answers a question as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher

listens at a press conference held on Monday at the King's residence near London (AFP photo)

King said, "We've had a very constructive discussion on a number of issues," said Mr. Christopher. "We of course discussed the peace process and the import-

(Continued on page 5)

Ekeus begins talks in Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — A U.N. official working to ensure that Iraq complies with ceasefire resolutions banning it from possessing weapons of mass destruction held talks Monday with Iraq's foreign minister and other officials in Baghdad. The Iraqi News Agency said Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission, met with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Safadi and other officials to discuss developments since Deputy Premier Tareq 'Aziz visited New York in March.

Israel wants PLO amnesty

CAIRO (AFP) — Israeli negotiators insisted here Monday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) announce a general amnesty for all collaborators in exchange for the release of more Palestinian prisoners, an Israeli source said. The Palestinians are pressing for 3,400 prisoners to be freed, in addition to 5,000 whom both sides agreed would be released after the signing of an accord to launch self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Afule bus attack claims ninth victim

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli woman has died of her injuries almost three weeks after the suicide car-bomb attack in the northern town of Afule, raising the death toll to nine, hospital officials said Monday. Ahava Cohen was seriously hurt in the attack which was claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in revenge for the February 25 Hebron massacre.

Hata faces crisis

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Social Democratic Party (SDP) announced Tuesday its decision to leave the coalition government of newly-elected Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata following the sudden emergence of a rival bloc. "The SDP cannot remain a member of the coalition government and we cannot take part in the formation of a cabinet by the new government," SDP chairman Tomio Murayama said (see page 5).

Special group formed on Bosnia

LONDON (AFP) — Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations have agreed to form a joint consultation group on the Bosnia crisis. Russian envoy Vitaly Churkin said Monday. The group's first meeting will be Tuesday, he said without specifying where. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said it would take place in London at the ambassador level.

Bombings cloud S. African elections

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Suspected white extremists on Monday stepped up a bombing campaign, which has killed at least 19 people in two days, as South Africans prepared to go to the polls for landmark all-race elections from Tuesday.

A 100-kilogramme car-bomb exploded at a taxi rank in the Johannesburg satellite town of Germiston, killing at least 10 and injuring 36.

It followed a similar attack in central Johannesburg Sunday that left nine dead and nearly 100 wounded.

Six other blasts, four aimed at election offices and polling stations, were reported Monday in rural towns around the country, where white extremists opposed to the poll enjoy most support.

African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela condemned the latest wave of attacks as the work of "madmen."

The bombers, he said, are "madmen who are now slaughtering innocent people because they fear democracy." The perpetrators, he said, would be hunted down.

President Frederic de Klerk blamed the spate of bomb attacks on a "lunatic fringe," attempting to disrupt the elec-

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. rescues more injured from Gorazde

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The U.N. evacuated wounded by helicopter on Monday from battered Gorazde and deployed more peacekeepers along the front lines there as the Muslim enclave's Bosnian Serb besiegers pulled tanks and artillery.

The U.N. Commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, said he believed the Serbs, threatened by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) with air strikes, would meet the alliance's Wednesday deadline to pull their heavy weapons from a 20-kilometres area around Gorazde.

"I am fairly confident they will. I believe they are actually withdrawing at the moment, we have seen many signs of that," he told BBC radio.

The first two helicopters out of Gorazde on Monday carried 15 patients and five people accompanying them to Sarajevo. Seven were on stretchers and the rest were walking wounded.

U.N. military spokesman Major Holloway said the helicopters were delayed for an hour by having to land at Sokolac for inspection by the Bosnian Serbs.

The lull in fighting prompted

(Continued on page 5)

Majali welcomes Israeli comments on settlements

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Monday welcomed as a "positive step" Israeli statements indicating readiness for making territorial compromise and dismantling the settlements in the occupied Arab territories in return for peace with the Arabs.

"I believe what (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin) said is positive... it is the first time he makes such a statement and it (means) an acceptance of the truth that peace cannot be achieved as long as the settlements exist in their current shape," Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali told reporters.

Restating Jordan's position that settlements are an obstacle to peace, Dr. Majali said the Hebron massacre was a major factor in "shaking the idea of building and keeping settlements."

Dr. Majali said Jordan was ready to hold the meetings of com-

mittees)." He said, "our fear for the absence of coordination is that our brothers in the organisation do not have enough experience in certain issues and we are more experienced than them and could help them and avoid harm."

But coordination with Syria "is at its best," said Dr. Majali adding that Syria supports Jordan's demand for an end to the siege on Aqaba and the two countries along with other Arab partners will meet to coordinate before the resumption of the bilateral peace talks.

He said the Hebron massacre and the siege on Aqaba contributed to the halting of the peace talks until the emergence of positive signs about these issues.

Dr. Majali rejected accusations that his government lacks the scope of the Palestinian law in the self-rule areas of Jericho and Gaza and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

The negotiations resumed talks in Cairo Sunday. Palestinian officials said it could be the last session before an accord is signed.

Reiterating Jordan's com-

(Continued on page 5)

Review of W. Bankers has no political implications — Majali

AMMAN (J.T.) — The call by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on the government to re-examine procedures concerning West Bank residents living in the Kingdom has no political dimension, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Monday.

Speaking at a meeting with the local and foreign media correspondents, Dr. Majali said the Regent's statement on Sunday referred to a "procedural matter" that applies exactly to the other border crossings in the Kingdom.

"The current pressure on the Jordan River bridges calls for a lot of change to the present measures and routine with a view to improving the situation," said Dr. Majali.

Prince Hassan has said at a meeting with the secretaries-general of the various minis-

tries." He said, "our fear for the absence of coordination is that our brothers in the organisation do not have enough experience in certain issues and we are more experienced than them and could help them and avoid harm."

He called for updating and modernising the regulations to cope with the developments that have emerged since 1988.

He stressed the need to reconsider the criteria for residence of West Bankers in Jordan with the aim of facilitating and easing administrative procedures.

Dr. Majali said that any measures or instructions can by "no means please all the people nor can they cover all cases as every now and then we have a new problem that requires a different measure."

The government would be re-examining the instructions from time to time in order to handle the new questions. Hence this is purely a procedural matter aiming at facilitating measures for the incoming and outgoing visitors across the Jordan River bridges and to reduce the ever increasing pressure on the concerned authorities at the bridges who, he said, handle thousands of travellers' cases on a daily basis, he said.

Commenting on the issue, Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said Monday that the ministry was constantly revising regulations related to the residence of West Bankers in the Kingdom.

"The last time these regulations were revised was in September 1993 when all concerned authorities met and adopted appropriate measures to deal with the different cases," Mr. Hammad said.

"We facilitate the visits by

(Continued on page 5)

Mark on Your Calendar
Bani Hamida presents
"Artists Expressions in Wool"

Sunday, May 8 - Sunday, May 15
10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

at the Jordanian Construction Contractors Association Bldg. Tel 658696

Israel, PLO study autonomy package

Economy pact may be delayed

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiators sought agreement here Monday on a draft document clearing the last hurdles to Palestinian self-rule, sources close to the talks said.

The document was a "package deal" covering security arrangements, the scope of Palestinian law in the self-rule areas of Jericho and Gaza and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

But the daily Haaretz said Monday that the signing would likely be delayed due to Mr. Rabin's insistence that all issues be tied up beforehand.

Israel Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told Israel Television many issues remained unresolved in Paris talks.

If agreement is not reached before an autonomy accord is signed in Cairo Sunday, Palestinian officials said it could be the last session before an accord was clinched.

An Israeli minister said meanwhile the economic issues stalling talks on implementation of Palestinian autonomy may be dealt with at a later stage to allow a quick agreement and changes on the ground.

Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet told Israeli Radio that the cabinet's conclusion was that "to succeed (the talks) need to be completed shortly."

He added that a strategic decision was made "that if the security, judicial and political issues are completed it is definitely possible to leave the economic issues for a later stage," he said.

Israeli media quoted Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as telling the cabinet that "if an

(Continued on page 5)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Antiquities announces the postponement of the formal opening of a conference entitled "Encounter of Museums, professionals of Arab countries' museums, civilisation and development" which was due to open today Tuesday 26.4.94 at 10 a.m. The opening ceremony will be at 5 p.m. on the same day. The conference will be opened under the patronage of

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent

at the conferences hall of the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

Invited guests are requested to be present half an hour before the opening time.

Thank you

Fateh and Hamas step up dialogue in Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, have stepped up dialogue weeks before the PLO is due to come to power as a Palestinian self-rule authority in the Gaza Strip.

Leaders of the two biggest Palestinian groups, one of which has signed peace with the Jewish state and one of which seeks to destroy it, have held a series of meetings in Gaza in the last few days, officials from both sides said on Sunday.

Both sides described the publicly announced meetings, the latest of which was held on Saturday, as informal dialogues focusing on how to avoid inter-Palestinian bloodshed after self-rule begins in a few weeks' time.

But the mere fact that Fateh is meeting with group which has killed 12 Israelis in suicide bomb attacks this month makes many Israelis nervous.

Cabinet ministers said last week any sign Fateh was prepared to help Hamas guerrillas escape Israeli security forces could jeopardise the peace deal.

Rashid Abu Shbak, a leading Fateh official in Gaza, said Saturday's meeting, which lasted late into the night at a Gaza hotel, was an academic discussion and not political.

"It was no more than a seminar, not an official agreement," he told Reuters but added: "We're on our way to reaching a full agreement to avoid bloodshed."

Officers from the embryo Palestinian police attended the discussion alongside prominent Hamas personalities like Khalid Al Hindi, an aide to the movement's leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

Another Fateh official said the two groups were also meeting in the West Bank.

The military wings of the two groups, the Fateh Hawks and the Qassam Brigades of Hamas, issued a joint statement on Friday saying they would both stop killing sus-

pected collaborators with Israel for a month.

Other Fateh leaders defended the peace agreement at a public debate in front of more than 1,000 students on Sunday at Gaza's Islamic University, a Hamas stronghold.

Sufyan Abu Zeidah and Diab Al Louh fielded tough questions from Islamists both in the 90-minute debate and afterwards at lunch with university staff.

Hamas supporters played down any suggestion the talks involved any agreement on political matters, describing them as attempts to establish friendly contacts.

"They dealt with matters like avoiding the spilling of blood that everyone agrees on. They have not dealt with political issues," said Ahmad Bahar, who runs an Islamic charitable society and was deported to Lebanon.

The opposition fears victimisation, particularly by the 7,000 men of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), who will form the backbone of the force and are totally devoted to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Political science lecturer Atef Adwan, who was deported to southern Lebanon in 1992 as a Hamas member, questioned the impartiality of a police force recruited by the PLO.

"Generally in democratic countries, the police does not belong to any particular side. Will this be the case or will it be an extension of the Israeli police?" he asked.

Mr. Louh replied: "The Palestinian authority will be elected by all Palestinians and the policemen who are due to arrive are veteran soldiers who have given their lives to the Palestinian cause and I do not think they will become the oppressors."

"The police will be clean and impartial."

The Israeli government has made no mention of the agreement, after warning the PLO that if it reached an understanding with the fundamentalists which allowed Hamas to continue its attacks on Israelis then the autonomy deal would be off.

agreement Friday to end inter-ethnic fighting and to cooperate for autonomy.

"However, we do not want to talk about a honeymoon because that's for marriages and occasionally marriage ends in divorce," he laughed.

Ala Al Nazi, a 22-year-old student linked to Hamas, agreed. "It's the first joint meeting. It was excellent and moving.

"It expresses the unity to which we aspire. We will hold more similar meetings and will maintain our relations with Fateh."

After warm applause for the arrival of three members of Fateh's high committee the debate quickly focussed on how the 9,000 Palestinian policemen will treat those like Hamas who have opposed the autonomy deal and the whole peace process.

Sources close to Hamas also suggested Fateh was also initiating dialogue to prevent any armed escalation after a Hamas supporter was shot and killed by Fateh Hawks in a dispute in the southern town of Rafah last month.

Amnon Rubinstein, Israel's left-wing education minister, said a Fateh-Hamas agreement could be either a blessing or a curse, depending on which one influenced the other more.

"It will be a blessing if the PLO is going to exert its influence to prevent terrorism in Israel. It will be a curse if it signals passive cooperation and tacit understanding Hamas can go on killing Israelis outside the Gaza Strip," he told reporters.

Hamas asked Fateh representatives to the Islamic University to address 2,000 students on the forthcoming Palestinian autonomy and the opposition.

"It really is the first time that Hamas has invited us, and what is more to this university to speak to their students," said Mr. Louh, a Fateh leader in Gaza.

"It's a good start to establish relations between the national and Islamic movements," he said after the Hawks and Al Kassam approached their

opponents.

"The police will be clean and impartial."

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The diplomats said the foreign ministers of the 12-nation EU decided in a meeting held in Brussels last week to intensify lobbying the Arab states individually and collectively to end the boycott and to ask all EU countries to drop the secondary and tertiary boycotts.

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Opinion & Analysis

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MATTAUUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. SHAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephone: 06-71716, 670141-4

Fax: 06-717163
Facsimile: 06-717163

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United we stand

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan's call Sunday for reassessing regulations issued in the wake of the 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in order to facilitate the handling of issues pertaining to West Bankers in Jordan is a welcome development. Ever since the 1988 decision, confusion marked some of the dealing with the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and West Bankers who moved to Jordan after the 1967 war. The problem was compounded by the fact that these people had Jordanian nationality and carried valid Jordanian passports that entitled them to equal treatment as Jordanian citizens; many of them have children born in Jordan and studying in Jordanian schools. The sudden change of those people's legal status caused hardships, both personal and economic.

The problem appears to still affect so many people five years after the 1988 decision. The 1988 step was political, intended to give Palestinians an opportunity to represent themselves in their quest to regain their national rights.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali yesterday sought to quell any misconceptions as to the new directives by stressing that the reexamination of the procedures had no "political dimensions" and was only intended to improve the current facilities extended to the Palestinians. Latest developments, especially those related to the impending Palestinian self-rule and to the movement of future Palestinian officials in and out of the West Bank and border crossing at the bridges, require an updating of the existing regulations pertaining to our Palestinian brethren.

One overriding factor must be on the minds of all Jordanian officials. Whatever the political reasons for the 1988 decision, it is neither possible nor desirable to separate the two peoples that aspire for a united future. While asserting the Palestinian identity today, Jordanians and Palestinians are keen on keeping the seeds of a united future in place.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily criticised the media for misinterpreting or distorting statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who never said he would end the settlements in the event of peace. Mr. Rabin never said that he would give back Arab lands free of any settlement but rather would remove some settlements for the sake of achieving peace with Syria and the Palestinians, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said Mr. Rabin never said his government would fully implement U.N. Security Council resolutions, and thus has to be taken into consideration by the Arab parties involved in the peace process. What Mr. Rabin said was that Israel can never accept the idea of dismantling the Jewish settlements as it did in Sinai as a price it has to pay for peace, according to the writer. Those who put words in Mr. Rabin's mouth were naive people who could not absorb Mr. Rabin's words and realise his real intentions, added Mr. Masarweh. Even with regard to the Syrian Golani, he said, Mr. Rabin has said that some of the settlements could be removed but never did he say that the whole area would be cleared of the Israeli settlers. According to the writer, Mr. Rabin has said Israel would never order any of its citizens to leave his land for security reasons.

ANOTHER COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily focused attention on Mr. Rabin's visit to Moscow stressing that the Israeli prime minister's statement claiming that it was intended to ensure Washington-Moscow coordination in the peace process was a mere deception. Mr. Rabin is visiting Moscow in order to help create a Zionist lobby inside the Kremlin that would prevent any Arab influence on the Russian leaders and ensure no cooperation between Moscow and the future autonomy rule government in Palestine, said Mahmoud Rimawi. He said that even though Moscow is known to be secure within the orbit of American influence, Mr. Rabin insists on pursuing his attempt to secure full subjugation by Moscow to the U.S.-Zionist will.

The View from Fourth Circle

Finally, pragmatism triumphs over self-righteousness

By Rami G. Khouri

Seven months after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles in September, the negotiations for the interim period of self-government in Palestine are nearly complete and within a few weeks the implementation of the accord will start. Three important developments in the last week strengthen my belief that the process now under way will ultimately succeed: the participation of an Israeli delegation in the multilateral water talks in Oman; the statements by the Israeli prime minister and the agriculture and economics minister to the effect that Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian and Syrian lands will eventually be dismantled; and the statements by Hamas officials that their organisation will make peace with Israel within its pre-1967 borders, and that Hamas wishes to participate in the self-government arrangement in Palestine in the five-year interim period before the final status of the occupied territories is agreed upon.

All three of these developments are important because they symbolise the pragmatic, realistic and conciliatory trend that must dominate the minds of all in the region if we are to make the peace process work and to lay the groundwork for a more stable and peaceful region. They symbolise, in essence, the triumph of the politics of inclusion over the mindset of selfish self-righteousness. The Arabs, Israel and the leading Palestinian group opposed to the Arafat-dominated PLO have opted to work within a political context that recognises the reality and the rights of those they have always adamantly opposed and fought. This is good news for those in this region who value pragmatism over diplomatic rigidity and who place a greater value on realism than on ideological purity.

The Arabs effectively said in Muscat that an Israeli state that ends its occupation of Arab lands and lives alongside a self-determinant Palestinian state will be accepted in the region — which is Israel's greatest wish. The Israelis effectively said that they recognise the incompatibility between occupation and peace — which is the Palestinians' and the Arabs' greatest wish. Hamas effectively said that it recognises the futility of remaining as a marginalised and negative voice of maximalism and rejection at a time when everyone else in the region is moving towards compromise and coexistence — which is the greatest wish of all those Arabs and Israelis who look forward to a future Middle East based on political pluralism and participatory governance.

Yasser Arafat, his Fatah group and their political supporters in the Palestinian diaspora have had a rough time recently and have suffered a great deal of opposition and ridicule. This will change quickly, I believe, in the coming weeks, when the Israelis start to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho, the

Palestinian self-governing authority starts to materialise and to wield real power and international financial aid and private Arab investments start to flow into Palestine. I predict that Arafat will regain much of his support when the self-governing arrangements come to life in May and that the dubious scepticism that now dominates the Palestinian and Arab national psyches will be replaced by an energetic determination to turn Palestinian interim self-government into the core phase of Palestinian self-determination and sovereignty.

The Israeli ministers' statements about ultimately dismantling settlements are extraordinarily important. It is no surprise, however, that they have been greeted with yet more Arab scepticism and doubt, for the Arab psyche remains distorted by the after-shocks of many decades of failure in the battle against Zionism and the state of Israel. It is time to snap out of this historical haze and to recognise the real movement that is taking place in the minds of the Israelis, and in ours.

The Israeli ministers' statements come in the wake of repeated requests by an increasing number of Israeli settlers for Israeli government financial assistance to allow them to move out of the settlements and to relocate within Israel's 1967 borders. That this should be happening even before the peace accord is implemented strikes me as a rather profound statement of political fact and a positive harbinger of things to come. Clearly, there is no future for the settlements, in their present states, under Palestinian sovereignty — and there should be no doubt in anybody's mind that Palestinian sovereignty is what we will see materialise in the years to the end of this decade.

Instead of dampening the impact of the Israeli ministers' statements, the Arab World should respond to them with a challenge and a promise: the challenge for Israel to translate its words into deeds and the promise that the Arabs will live alongside Israel and accept it as a state in our region if and when Israel affirms its willingness to coexist with Palestinian sovereignty and to implement all relevant United Nations resolutions on the Palestine question.

In this context, Hamas' sudden declaration about its willingness to coexist with an Israeli state in its pre-1967 borders are highly significant. In recent years, Hamas and other Islamist groups have taken over from the Palestinian leftist/nationalist groups the mantle of hardline rejection of negotiating or coexisting with Israel. But Hamas, like Israel, sees the writing on the wall. It recognises, and now admits, that the present power configuration in the Middle East is not tenable for long. Israel recognises that its power and subjugation of Arab rights cannot continue forever, for several

reasons: Israel's heavy and vulnerable dependence on external support, the moral and psychological price that Israel pays for its continued occupation of others and the determination of the Arabs to right the wrongs of recent history.

At the same time, Hamas and its Islamist allies cannot expect to retain their popularity or their political credibility solely on the basis of their idealism, rejectionism and emotional sloganising. The recent attempt by Hamas and other Islamists to join forces with the Palestinian lefties in opposing the PLO-Israel peace plan has been intriguing, but largely ineffective — mainly because it perpetuates the rejectionist maximalism of the past, runs against the grain of the Middle Eastern pragmatism that defines the present and seems grievously irrelevant to the forces of conciliation and coexistence that promise to drive the future of this region.

It is no surprise, therefore, that within the same week Hamas should not only state its willingness in principle to coexist with an Israel that stays within its pre-1967 borders, but should also express its desire to engage in peaceful political battle and power-sharing in the new Palestine that will soon start to emerge. Hamas — eager for political power and a share of the limelight — has obviously learned the lessons of the Lebanese rightists, the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia and Inkatha in South Africa: if you play hard to get and stay out of the political process that the national majority has agreed upon, you are likely to be relegated to the humiliating historical footnotes of self-destructive political irrelevance.

Most Arab feel that the PLO and the Arab governments are making too many concessions to Israel and getting little in return. I would suggest that this is incorrect and that, in fact, we are starting to see the Israelis making the big concessions that we have long demanded of them. The process has required much time, but it is finally under way. For the Israelis prime minister and other ministers to speak publicly of the eventual dismantling of Israeli settlements, and to stress that the final peace accord that will be negotiated in the coming few years will be based on definitive territorial withdrawals strikes me as quite an important step forward.

It is time now for Arabs and Israelis alike to cease decrying the concessions that each makes to the other as signs of weakness and instead of focus on the mutual gains that both sides are making. For the first time in nearly a century of Arab-Israeli confrontation, we may have the opportunity to stop talking about winners and losers and instead to speak of collective victories, mutual gains and the simultaneous affirmation of several contiguous national identities.

M. KAHL



Resistance to the U.S. unite Asians

By Elaine Kurtensbach
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Just five months ago, President Bill Clinton stood beside Asian leaders in Seattle and proclaimed a new Pacific community."

But the reality is a growing series of spats between the United States and Asian countries that are souring relations nearly everywhere.

From Bombay to Beijing, Asians chafe under U.S. pressure on trade and human rights. Asian nations, long at odds with each other because of the cold war and historical rivalries, gradually are finding they have something important in common: resistance to the American agenda for a year ago.

"Open societies do not attack one another. They make better trading partners. They press for environmental reform. They do not practice terrorism. They do not produce refugees. To be sure, areas of Asia lag behind the march of history."

To Asians, such comments suggest that Washington does not view them as equals.

"This holier-than-thou attitude rubs most Asian societies the wrong way," said Bob Broadfoot, head of the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy in Hong Kong.

He cited such tactics as chastising China on human rights and Japan for its trade surplus, criticising Singapore's judicial system over the flogging sentence for an American youth and attacking Indonesian labour policies.

While North Korea remains repressive, the Communist regimes in China and Vietnam have at least offered their citizens more economic freedom. In the rest of Southeast and East Asia, growing affluence has brought unprecedented freedoms, political as well as economic.

But U.S. attempts to use trade policy to influence such issues as labour standards and tolerance of political dissent have antagonised practically every nation in the area.

During his election campaign, Mr. Clinton accused then-president George Bush of supplanting universal ideals of freedom and democracy with pragmatism.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher and other Clinton administration officials now contend that closer economic ties with Asia, which takes nearly two-thirds of all

U.S. exports, require broader agreement on such issues as human rights.

Winston Lord, U.S. assistant secretary of state, summarised that position in his confirmation hearings a year ago:

"Open societies do not attack one another. They make better trading partners. They press for environmental reform. They do not practice terrorism. They do not produce refugees. To be sure, areas of Asia lag behind the march of history."

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bour policies.

"It is not sensible for Western

countries to impose their

values of democracy on other

countries," he was quoted as

telling Premier Li Peng.

When Chinese authorities

rounded up more than 100

activists who demanded com

pensation for Japanese

brutality in World War II, Tokyo

made an inquiry, but no offi

cial protest — a clear contrast

to Mr. Christopher's public

outrage over the detentions of

17 dissidents during his

own visit.

People who preach also

should practice in order to be

credible," Prime Minister

Mahathir Mohammad of

Malaysia said in a magazine

interview. "The U.S. has

preached, but quite often it

has not practiced."

On the issue of greatest urgency in the region, North Korea's nuclear programme, Asian leaders have shown a growing confidence in working together, sometimes in a direction different from what Washington would like.

In an unprecedented flurry of regional diplomacy last month, both President Kim Young-Sam of South Korea and Morihiro Hosokawa, then the Japanese prime minister, visited Beijing for talks on the North Korean issue.

When President Kim of South Korea proclaimed a "new Asian era" in an address to Japanese lawmakers in March, he spoke not of Washington, but of Seoul, Tokyo and Beijing.

"We should share a lofty and grand vision encompassing the spacious Pacific that can strike a responsive chord in the minds of two billion Asians," he declared.

Kazuo Ogura, a senior official in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, says Asia is taking back many "rights" it conceded during the colonial era and during the cold war, when resistance to Communism was strong.

The reaction of the Palestinians to the mosque massacre is only a natural response. Notice that it was a reaction and not an initiative. If Israelis are allowed to commit massacres and then justify the act by blaming it on madness, it is absurd not to react.

Also, the article neglects the Palestinian's not only tense but miserable conditions of life in the West Bank, in the knowledge that they are the ones oppressed and governed by the enemies that will continue to hate them to the end of time. The irony even becomes greater when the term "terrorism" is mentioned in a quotation by an Israeli parliament member: "What is the option, to surrender to terrorism?" To refuse tyranny and defend one's rights is described as terrorism. This is the first time in history when children throwing stones and being killed daily by a mighty army are called terrorists.

Propagandists can sometimes defy all logic and condition. As any other issue, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has to be reported with more honesty, so that the world can be able to know the truth.

The role of self-righteous superman might play well in domestic politics, but it's farcical in international relations," he said.

In Washington, the position is far different. Trade and good relations are seen both as important in themselves and as tools to promote human rights, which the Americans regard as universal.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

LETTERS

A new vision for education

To the Editor:

WITH REFERENCE to Dr. Ahmad Majdoub's article "Teaching as a participatory process with teacher as coach" (Jordan Times, March 24), I would like to second all what Dr. Majdoub has raised in his article.

Even though the teaching/learning process has made fast progress in Jordan over the last years, some defective methods of education are still used, tarnishing the whole process. The overall situation of our teachers and students is not so pleasing.

Generally speaking, our students are passive and hardly creative; their role is to copy whatever the instructors say. During examinations, they just rewrite the information they have memorised and give it back to the instructor. This trend destroys the minds of the students and kills their creative thinking and innovation.

This problem originated at school and so does its solution. Students should be taught how to study on their own; how to read; how to understand; how to generate ideas and pass thoughts without being fully dependent on the teacher. In

Poor states seek own economic forum

WASHINGTON (R) — Tired of shouting in the dark, poor nations are considering setting up a permanent forum to lobby their wealthy neighbours for better aid, debt and trade deals.

The Group of 24 (G-24) is considering creating a permanent Secretariat, said Willy Zapata, Guatemala's central bank president and chairman of the G-24 which comprises eight Latin American, eight Asian and eight African nations.

He told a news conference held as part of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-World Bank spring meeting that a working group comprising representatives from nine

G-24 member states will soon be set up to study the creation of a secretariat and other proposals for Third World development.

Mr. Zapata said it was too early to tell what changes will be introduced, "but the feeling is that some changes are necessary."

In a report presented to the IMF-World Bank meeting, G-24 nations urged industrial countries to give them more aid, easier debt terms and better trade treatment.

The problem is that the group has been making such appeals every six months — at every IMF-World Bank meeting for most of its 22 years of existence — and not always achieving the desired results.

A permanent secretariat, an idea that emerged earlier this month at an informal G-24 meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, would help the group follow up on its quest for improved living standards in the developing world.

Addressing the G-24 meeting here, World Bank President Lewis Preston said the developing nations' overall outlook was good.

But he acknowledged that economic growth was bypassing some of the poorest nations, especially in Africa, and promised to seek additional aid. "The bank continues to work with its donor country members to increase aid volume," he said.

In their report, the G-24

ministers hailed the "encouraging growth prospects of the world economy."

But they said much remains to be done to improve the prospects of many developing nations where living standards have declined for most of the past two decades.

The report urged wealthy states to strengthen their support for poor nations' reforms, particularly in the form of additional concessional assistance, improved access to export markets and outright reduction of the debt stock.

"In this context, the continuing application of subsidies and taxes by a number of industrial countries distorts international market shares," it said.

To make matters worse, it added, some wealthy nations are increasingly using "environmental and social justifications for non-tariff trade restrictions" on poor countries' exports.

The successful conclusion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's Uruguay Round is likely to boost world commerce and help developing nations in the medium and long-term.

But the group warned that some of the poorest countries, especially food importers, may suffer a short-term negative impact, especially if they lose trade preferences afforded by bilateral or multilateral agreements.

World Bank report says standards of living improved for world's poor

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank Monday reported substantial progress for many of the world's poor with Asian countries making the largest strides and Africa falling behind.

"Hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people have achieved substantial improvements in their living standards over the past 20 years, although the progress has been uneven across countries," a bank statement said.

The bank report, "Social indicators of development,"

showed improvement in the 55 countries with lowest income and a population of 3.2 billion:

• Life expectancy increased from 53 to 62 years since 1970.

• Income per capita rose from \$190 in 1975 to \$390.

• Infant mortality decreased

by one-third since 1970.

• Access to safe water rose from 33 per cent of the population in 1985 to 68 per cent.

• Primary school enrollment

has increased 36 per cent in the past 20 years.

"We are making progress but it is not fast enough," said bank President Lewis Preston in a statement issued with the report.

The bank noted that about 30 per cent of the population in the developing world, one billion people, are living on about \$1 a day.

The best results have been in East Asia, the bank said, the worst in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Emmanuel Jimenez, head of the bank's poverty division, said in an interview that countries with the best record in alleviating poverty, both in terms of increasing income and improving quality of life, have followed a two-track approach.

They have followed a disciplined economic policy, and they have invested heavily in human resources through education and health care.

"Countries that have done both of them together have had the best success," he said.

He picked out Thailand as a particular success. Bank figures showed that life expectancy in Thailand rose from 60 to 69 since 1970 while income per capita rose from \$670 to \$1,840 since 1980. Infant mortality was cut in half and access to safe water rose from 25 per cent of the population to 72 per cent.

China, with 1.2 billion people, showed an increase in life expectancy from 64 to 69 years from 1970 and an increase in income from \$570 per capita in 1980 to \$350 in 1992. However life expectancy rose by one-third since 1970.

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G-7 officials see tamed inflation, further growth

WASHINGTON (R) — The Group of Seven (G-7) countries said Sunday that global inflationary pressures seem largely contained and saw little reason for the slowly strengthening recovery to be interrupted by the upturn in long-term interest rates.

In a statement following five hours of talks by financial ministers and central bank chiefs, the G-7 however, agreed to cooperate closely to help keep lid on excessive volatility in the currency markets and pledged to help Russia secure critical debt rescheduling.

"We continue to believe exchange rates should reflect economic fundamentals and that excessive volatility is undesirable," U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen said in a statement.

At the same time, the statement made clear that officials believed that inflation was muted and that the rise in long-term rates reflected that expectation that the global recovery would continue on

track.

"We agreed the fundamentals are good, and we reiterated that inflation remains under control," Mr. Bentsen said, adding that "inflationary forces remain subdued, even in places where growth has exceeded expectations."

But not everything was sweetness and light. "We recognise that the contrast of strong growth in some economies and weak growth in others could seriously delay a narrowing of external payments imbalances," Mr. Bentsen said.

And unemployment remains "unacceptably high," he added.

The statement reinforced the belief that the worst may be over for the global economy as it adjusts to vast economic changes associated, in part, with the end of the cold war and the emergence of vast new economic strength in the emerging economies of Asia.

"Collectively we are more encouraged than we have

been," Mr. Bentsen said. "And I must say I was pleased to bear the optimism around the table."

Mr. Bentsen said there was general agreement that the growth strategy that the G-7 put in place last year was working. That strategy involves deficit reduction in the United States, lower interest rates in Europe, and action by Japan to ensure strong domestic demand and a smaller trade surplus.

To combat the world's stubbornly high level of unemployment, the G-7 must implement more vigorously the growth strategy set up last year, Mr. Bentsen said.

We recognise that excessive unemployment in some countries results from structural impediments to job creation," he said. "We all need to pursue policies to strengthen our labour markets and employment systems."

A senior U.S. official said that in a meeting between Mr. Bentsen and Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii prior to

the G-7 meeting, Mr. Bentsen had renewed calls on Japan to do more to stimulate demand, and to cut its trade surplus.

Mr. Fujii, however, said that the United States had made no "big demands," and rejected economic forecasts released this week by the IMF as too low. He told reporters that his economy would pull out of a three-year slump this year to grow faster than the 0.7 per cent forecast by the IMF.

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel also predicted good growth, saying the German economy would grow at the top end of government forecasts in 1994 of one to 1.5 per cent, far above a 0.9 per cent IMF projection.

The G-7 spent a considerable amount of time discussing economic reform in Russia and during the meeting met with Russian officials, including Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin, who visited the meeting held in Washington's historic Georgetown District.

Mr. Shokhin told reporters

Russia wants a more generous debt rescheduling deal from the Paris Club this year and in 1994 and made a pitch for more private investment for his country.

He emphasised he did not believe his country was in a position to add to its own deficit because of the need to make large repayments.

"I believe we will reach agreement in May or June, but we need a good agreement with the Paris Club," Mr. Shokhin said.

The bank noted that about 30 per cent of the population in the developing world, one billion people, are living on about \$1 a day.

ANKARA (R) — An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team will start talks in Ankara this week on a stand-by agreement to rescue Turkey's floundering economy.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller called in the IMF to restore confidence after a rapid economic deterioration highlighted by the collapse of three small banks in the past three weeks.

Officials said the IMF mission

was expected to arrive Friday following preliminary talks in Washington, where Economy Minister Aykut Dogan and other senior economic officials are attending the semi-annual IMF-World Bank meeting.

Turkey, where inflation,

public deficits and interest

rates are spinning out of control, may seek short-term relief in stand-by credits worth up to 65 per cent of its IMF quota of \$42 million Special Drawing Rights (\$900 million).

Erkan Uygur, an economics professor at Ankara University and former central bank advisor, said the IMF might also offer Turkey an extended fund facility — a three-year programme designed to cure structural balance of payments problems.

IMF approval would make it easier for Ankara to return to foreign capital markets wary of Turkish risk after Moody's and Standard and Poor's cut Turkey's rating twice this year.

Considering the present circumstances, Turkey has no

option but to ask for IMF assistance," Mr. Uygur told Reuters.

He said the IMF was likely to seek price rises, lower real wage levels, a further fall in the value of the lira, cuts in public spending, liberalisation of foreign trade, abolition of subsidies and quick privatisation.

Ms. Ciller's conservative Social Democrat coalition government has begun moving down this path, despite criticism from unions, leftwing politicians and the Islamist Welfare Party that the "imperialists" of the IMF will impose their will on Turkey.

If she wants the coalition to survive, Ms. Ciller may have to

heed pressure for democratic reforms from her minority Social Democratic partners, who are uneasy about her economic programme.

On April 5, Ms. Ciller announced austerity measures including one-off taxes, public sector price rises, closure of some state firms, faster privatisation and state spending curbs.

The initiatives on taxation and privatisation are still under debate in parliament.

Some officials say Ms. Ciller's 1994 revenue target of \$3.5 billion from selling off state enterprises is unrealistic. They expect the process to raise no more than \$2 billion.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirov

DOORE

SATTY

MYPLOC

SNIDUM

How many did we cut? I don't know

HOW THE LOGGERS LEFT THE FOREST

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: APRON MOUSE PODIUM QUENCH

Answer: What helped keep her dry in the rain — HER 'PUMPS'

THE Daily Crossword

by Avery P. Bromfield

ACROSS

1 Shirley

5 Quilt

10 Honcho

14 In the past

15 Golfer Palmer

16 Beaver

17 LS2

18 — cum laude

19 Stat or meter

20 Put up pictures

22 Take vigorous measures

24 Take a tour

25 'Ball —'

27 Golf club; var.

28 Turnoff

36 Emulsion

38 Remembrance; abbr.

39 Golf course feature

41 April golf event

44 Take a ride, to poats

45 Brick center

47 Showy flower

48 Pacific isles

51 Navy vessel

52 Stars

53 Star of back nine

54 AKA

55 Purposes

56 Fitter

57 "No ifs, —"

68 Scratch out

72 Scrubbing

74 Matriarch

75 Golf

76 Golfer

77 Gemstone

78 Space sightings

34 Ded

35 Oxide strap

37 Ravines

40 One addressed

Hata elected Japan's new premier

TOKYO (Agencies) — Tsutomu Hata, a populist with a down-to-earth style, became Japan's 51st prime minister Monday in a parliamentary vote that launched the second government of the eight-month-old ruling coalition.

Mr. Hata, 58, a bus conductor turned politician, won a majority of votes cast in each of the two chambers to be confirmed as successor to Morihiro Hosokawa, who quit as premier on April 8 over a personal loans scandal.

"We have decided to nominate Tsutomu Hata for prime minister," declared lower house speaker Takao Doi.

Mr. Hata's chief rival in the ballot, opposition leader Yohei Kono, predicted troubles ahead for the new administration.

"Hata comes to power at time of political instability," said Mr. Kono, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"I hope that Hata will be able to eliminate the people's distrust of politics," he told reporters.

Mr. Hosokawa, a self-proclaimed "Mr. Clean", chose to step down rather than face the humiliation of a grilling in parliament over two controversial personal loans dating back to the 1980s.

The once-dominant LDP had threatened to continue to hold hostage the state budget for 1994/95, due to take effect on April 1, until Mr. Hosokawa agreed to testify on his loans.

Mr. Hata, foreign minister in the outgoing administration, now faces an uphill battle in coordinating policy within an unruly coalition that nearly collapsed following Mr. Hosokawa's decision to quit.

The alliance wrangled bitterly for two weeks before agreeing on a watered-down platform of policies for the new government to follow.

The final document failed to resolve the two most contentious issues — how to reform the tax system, and what policy to adopt towards North Korea and its suspected nuclear weapons threat.

In the parliamentary vote, Mr. Hata won 274 votes in the 511-seat lower house, and 127 in the 252-member upper chamber.

He was expected to name a cabinet, and then the new government would take the oath of office before Emperor Aki-

hito.

Mr. Hata said earlier Monday he wanted to retain most of Mr. Hosokawa's ministers and give a post to Socialist leader Tomiichi Murayama, whose party is the largest but least reliable in the coalition.

"I think those who worked on drafting the new state budget should continue to represent the government," Mr. Hata said. "I think all the coalition party leaders (like Murayama) should be represented in the cabinet."

Mr. Hata becomes Japan's sixth prime minister in five years.

Political change was snail-paced during the LDP's decades of unchallenged power until then-premier Noboru Takeshita was forced to resign in 1989 amid public outrage over his government's links to corruption scandals.

After Mr. Takeshita, Japan saw three other LDP leaders come and go before the party crashed to defeat in the July 1993 general election and Mr. Hosokawa took the reins at the head of a broad alliance united only in their opposition to the LDP.

Mr. Hata takes over as Japan's economy is delicately poised for recovery and tensions are simmering over its huge trade surplus with the United States.

He has promised to put three economic tasks at the top of his agenda — enacting the long-delayed budget, reforming the tax system and taking steps to reduce the chronic trade gap.

Speculation is rife, however, that Mr. Hata's government will be run behind the scenes by his wily ally, Ichiro Ozawa, with whom he shares control of the Shinseito (Renewal Party).

Mr. Hata has denied this would happen.

"It's a fabrication to say that we're setting up two-tiered power structure," he said at the weekend, adding he would put emphasis on building consensus with his partners.

Both Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hata were proteges of LDP kingmaker Shint Kanemaru, who wielded immense power as Japan's backstage boss, installing and removing premiers at will.

After the old man was toppled by a corruption scam, Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hata led a group of dissidents out of the LDP and launched the Shinseito, now a pillar of the new government.



Newly elected Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata (centre) bows at the national diet during the lower house of parliament session which elected the former foreign minister as prime minister of Japan (AFP photo)

ruled coalition.

Mr. Hata, more than any of his predecessors, looks like the average Japanese worker he once was.

Before entering parliament in 1969, Mr. Hata worked for a bus company for 10 years. Now he has risen to the top in politics, many Japanese find his plain-spoken manner a refreshing change from the mealy-mouthed politicians they are used to.

He is the man with the most ministerial experience in the coalition. Before taking the foreign affairs portfolio last August, he had served successively as farm and finance ministers under LDP administrations.

Mr. Hata vowed Monday to observe the country's war-renouncing constitution during a meeting with lower-house speaker Takao Doi, parliament officials said.

Ms. Doi, a constitutional lawyer and former chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party, asked Mr. Hata to pass the government's stalled budget as soon as possible while promoting political reforms and observing the constitution.

Mr. Hata replied that it was "natural" for the new government to carry out such re-

quests. "Although there are various discussions, the cabinet must be in a position to observe the constitution. I hope the idea of Japan's anti-war constitution will become widely known throughout the world," he said.

The Japanese constitution, imposed by the United States after World War II, renounces the use of force in settling international disputes.

But hawks in both the ruling coalition and opposition parties have recently called for a revision to meet possible contingencies arising from North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme.

Meanwhile, South Korea's Foreign Ministry Monday congratulated the newly elected Japanese prime minister and expressed hope for continued friendly relations between the two countries.

"We welcome the launching of a new Japanese government led by Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

The statement also expressed appreciation to outgoing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa for his contributions in promoting bilateral ties during his tenure.

Efforts to open talks to end the carnage collapsed Sunday when the government delegation failed to reach Arusha, Tanzania. Mr. Kobia said officials of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front left Tanzania later Sunday.

U.N. military officials were continuing to talk to the rebels and the government forces in an effort to arrange a ceasefire

Military coup fails in Burundi

BUJUMBURA (R) — A military coup failed in the Central African state of Burundi early Monday when soldiers refused to take part for fear of triggering a tribal bloodbath like the one raging in neighbouring Rwanda.

Burundi Army Chief of Staff Colonel Jean Bikomagu told Reuters that coup organisers and supporters had been arrested and were being questioned by the military high command.

"A group of soldiers from a barracks in Bujumbura planned a putsch but they were stopped by loyalists when they left their post to execute their plans overnight," Col. Bikomagu said.

"Several soldiers have been arrested and the military command is interrogating them to find out why they wanted a military takeover."

Col. Bikomagu said the capital was calm, but aid workers reported sporadic shooting in slum areas inhabited by the

majority Hutu tribe, whose recent attempts to win a political voice have enraged the Tutsi-dominated army.

Burundian President Cyprien Ntaryamira was killed with his Rwandan counterpart Juvenal Habyarimana on April 6 when a rocket downed their plane at the airport in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

The warlike Tutsi — a minority in both Burundi and Rwanda — were the main victims of tribal slaughter this month in Rwanda, where politics and the armed forces have long been dominated by the

white command.

In Burundi, however, it was tens of thousands of Hutu who died after Tutsi soldiers overthrew Melchior Ndadaye, the country's first Hutu president, in a coup last October. Mr. Ndadaye was voted into office a few months earlier in polls monitored by Western observers.

Aid agencies and the U.N. say as many as 100,000 people

may have been killed and two million displaced in this month's Rwandan bloodbath.

But Burundi, which quickly named Hutu Sylvestre Ntubanuganya as interim president, stayed relatively calm.

Government offices in Bujumbura remained shut Monday morning. Residents stayed indoors.

"No one is going to work. Government offices are closed and tribal tension is at its height," one resident said.

Journalists in Bujumbura said the coup failed mainly because moderate soldiers feared the chaotic example of their northern neighbour, where government forces and rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front are now battling for control of Kigali.

"The moderates won this time. They feared another wave of killings so soon after what happened after the death of President Melchior Ndadaye last October. They wanted no role in new anarchy," a Western journalist told Reuters.

Norwegian explorer lifted off North Pole

OSLO (R) — Norwegian explorer Boerge Ousland, the first person to reach the North Pole alone and unaided, has been air-lifted off the icecap.

his spokesman said. "He was picked up by plane and the landing went perfectly," Hans Christian Erlandsen told Reuters.

Two planes arrived at the pole carrying a total of 14 people, including reporters and photographers and Mr. Ousland's father bringing a bottle of champagne and a cake.

After over an hour of interviews and filming, the planes left for the Canadian weather station Eureka, a six-hour flight from the pole. Mr. Ousland, a 31-year-old North Sea diver, built up fat reserves by drinking a glass of olive oil for breakfast every day for a year before setting off. He has not changed clothes or washed during the 1,000-kilometre trek which started in Siberia.

"I've been freezing a lot. My face looks like a meatball. My hands are also frostbitten," he said, but added that the condition was not too serious.

Temperatures at the North Pole can plunge to minus 50 degrees Centigrade (-58 F).

Contestants begin arriving for Miss Universe pageant

MANILA (AP) — Contestants from around the world have begun arriving for the Miss Universe pageant, which culminates next month in a glitzy ceremony in the Philippine International Convention Centre.

First to arrive Sunday was Miss USA Frances Louise Parker, a 26-year-old teacher from South Carolina. "I heard you have great islands and beautiful people," Miss Parker told reporters at Manila's airport.

Other early arrivals included Miss Thailand Areey Chumsai; Miss Uruguay Leonora Dehueno; Miss Swaziland, Nicola Smith; Miss Britain Michaela Pyke; Miss Romania Michele Colacu; Miss Cook Islands Leilane Brown; and Miss Australia Michelle Van Eimeren. Contestants from 90 countries will be competing for the title. Until the finals, they will travel to resorts throughout the country for promotional shoots.

The United Nations was trying to arrange to send truckloads of food and medicine into Rwanda from neighbouring Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania to care for the refugees, Mr. Kobia said.

U.N. officials also planned to fly more relief goods into the country to escape the humanitarian disaster. There have been warnings of epidemics and possible famine.

The United Nations was trying to arrange to send truckloads of food and medicine into Rwanda from neighbouring Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania to care for the refugees, Mr. Kobia said.

In neighbouring Burundi, thousands of Rwandans fleeing their homeland were arriving with guns and machete wounds, a Western diplomat said Sunday.

Spanish gays demand right to marry

MADRID (AFP) — Spanish homosexuals have demanded the right to marry people of the same sex, the news agency EFE reported. Quoting a communiqué from the Federation on Gay Associations of Catalonia, Jordi Petit and Isabel Castro, leaders of the federation and the Gay-Lesbian Platform, the two main homosexual associations in Spain, said at a meeting in Barcelona that Madrid should grant full recognition of the rights of homosexual couples, including marriage, in line with a recent recommendation of the European Parliament, EFE said.

Skinflick shocks Chinese TV viewers

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese fans of a long-running television series were stunned last month when, during a regular advertising slot, they were treated to 90 seconds of hard-core pornography, a report seen here said. Seven employees of a local television station in the central province of Henan are currently in police detention following the obscene broadcast, which occurred during prime time programming on March 10, the Tianjin Legal Daily said in its April 20 edition.

According to the newspaper, a group of technicians had used the station's facilities to copy a pornographic video which then got mixed up with advertising cassettes. Consequently, viewers settling down for the latest episode of the popular series depicting 1930s Hong Kong gangster society were suddenly subjected to one-and-a-half minutes of raunchy action in place of the usual plugs for soft drinks and air conditioners. The provincial authorities launched an immediate inquiry and suspended the station's director and two vice-directors, the daily said.

Veteran Communist leader Shaik Handal said the new government will have to respect the FMLN's quota of power. Calderon Sol can no longer treat us as terrorists," he said.

But the FMLN and its defeated presidential candidate, Ruben Zamora, remain suspicious of the new president-elect.

"He does not want to comply with the peace accords. It is that simple," Mr. Zamora told Reuters last week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IRA kills 2 in quiet N. Ireland town

LONDONDERRY, Northern Ireland (R) — IRA gunmen killed two Protestants as they clattered through the windows of their parked cars in a quiet Northern Ireland town late Sunday. Police said up to 30 shots were fired by the attackers whose own car was found later a short distance from Garvagh, a market town 40 kilometres from Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second city. The killings were the latest in a series by rival guerrilla groups and were likely to increase fears of a cycle of retaliatory attacks. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to break the province's union with Britain against the wishes of its Protestant majority, claimed responsibility for the shooting and said the victims were members of a Protestant extremist group. Garvagh residents said neither man was involved in politics and branded the attack purely sectarian. One of the victims, Alan Smith, had served in the Ulster Defence Regiment, a mainly Protestant locally-recruited regiment of the British army, but he left it several years ago. The other was John McCloy, who used to work in his family's grocery shop. Both were believed to be in their late thirties. Another man, a Roman Catholic who was in one of the victim's cars, was slightly hurt.

Greek economy minister dies of cancer

ATHENS (R) — National economy minister George Yennimatas, one of Greece's most popular politicians, died of cancer in hospital Monday. He was 55. He was rushed to hospital with respiratory complications last week and soon fell into a coma. A heavy smoker most of his life, he was diagnosed with lung cancer in December 1991. "I will fight to the end because a politician's duty is to give to his country. My illness will not stop me," Mr. Yennimatas said then. Assigned the tough task of turning around the country's troubled economy, he served as the Socialist administration's economy minister for just four months. But Mr. Yennimatas managed to complete the 1994 budget and negotiate a major tax reform bill with union leaders, due to be voted on by parliament Tuesday. He also succeeded in covering the government's huge 1993 fiscal deficit by persuading state and private commercial banks last December to buy government securities without raising the interest on treasury bills.

Malaysia's 9th king makes royal exit

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Sultan Azlan Shah Monday ended his five-year term as Malaysia's ninth king, completing a rotation among the nine hereditary rulers that began with Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957. Former diplomat Tuanku Ja'afar Abdul Rahman, the 71-year-old ruler of southern Negri Sembilan state, will take over as the 10th king Tuesday for five years. To start a second cycle which began with his father, Tuanku Abdul Rahman Muhammad. Tuanku Ja'afar, who studied at Oxford University, previously served in the home and foreign services and was named ambassador to Japan before he became ruler of Negri Sembilan in 1987. Under Malaysia's unique rotating monarchy, the sultans and rajas serve as the titular heads of nine of the nation's 13 states and choose a "Yang Di Pertuan Agong" or paramount ruler, from among themselves to reign for five years. A royal conclave of the hereditary rulers in February also named the Sultan of Selangor, Salahudin Hishamuddin, as the deputy king.

Wife charged in U.K. house of horror case

GLoucester, England (R) — The wife of a man accused of murdering 10 women in Britain's House Horror case has been charged with one of the killings, police said Monday. They said Rosemary West, wife of 52-year-old builder Frederick West, would appear in court. She is charged with murdering Linda Gough, one of the victims whose badly decomposed bodies were found when police dug in the cellar and garden at the couple's house at Gloucester, western England, and in a field. Rosemary West, 40, was charged last week with the rape of an 11-year-old girl. She was accused jointly with a man identified as William Smith of having had sexual intercourse with the girl without consent between July 1974 and July 1976. She also faces a second charge of assaulting and injuring a seven-year-old boy between January 1972 and December 1974. Rosemary West was arrested twice in late February in connection with the murders. She was released both times because of lack of evidence and later issued a statement denying knowledge of events at the house.

Armando Calderon Sol (centre), leader of the Salvadorean ruling Republican Nationalist Alliance (ARENA) is flanked by his wife Elizabeth Aguirre (right) and his running mate Enrique

Borgo as they celebrate Calderon's victory in the country's second round presidential runoff. Calderon won in a landslide victory over his leftist rival Ruben Zamora (AFP photo)

Rightist wins El Salvador presidency

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Armando Calderon Sol swept to victory in El Salvador's first post-war presidential elections but may have to cut deals with former rebel leaders to keep a delicate peace process alive.

With more than 90 per cent of votes counted from Sunday's election, Mr. Calderon Sol had 68 per cent support, more than double the vote of his leftist rival Ruben Zamora. But even as the ruling right-wing ARENA party held rowdy celebrations to mark Mr. Calderon Sol's emphatic win, ex-guerrilla chiefs warned he would be ill-advised to impose his will without their support.

In response, Mr. Calderon Sol struck a conciliatory tone in his victory speech, saying he would look for cross-party support when he takes office on June 1 and pledging his full commitment to the U.N. peace accords that ended El Salvador's 12-year civil war two years ago.

"My first act will be to continue the exact and loyal compliance with the peace accords," Mr. Calderon Sol said, adding that he will meet next month with U.N.

Leaders of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), who won second place in March 20 legislative elections just 15 months after disarming their

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, APRIL



Sports

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kipkiai wins Turin Marathon

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Michael Kipkiai of Kenya, running in his first major marathon, surged out of a pack that included world record holder Belayneh Dinsamo of Ethiopia, to win the Turin Marathon by nearly 16 seconds. Kipkiai finished in 2 hours, 10 minutes, 7.5 seconds. He was 15.8 seconds ahead of Turbo Tummo of Ethiopia. Dinsamo finished 12th at 2:15.04. Laura Fogli of Italy won the women's division in 2:31.44. About 2,000 runners from 20 nations took part in the race.

Fans pay Old Trafford tribute to Busby

LONDON (R) — Almost 10,000 soccer fans paid an emotional tribute to legendary Manchester United manager Sir Matt Busby Sunday in a thanksgiving service at Old Trafford Stadium. Fans and players from Busby's great teams — including Bobby Charlton, Denis Law and Harry Gregg — turned the stadium into a cathedral with hymns and prayers in a unique service in memory of Busby, who brought the club from the despair of the 1958 Munich disaster to European Cup glory 10 years later. Busby's former seat in the front row of the directors' box remained empty, as it has since his death in January, aged 84.

Brazil wins world youth title

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Sao Paulo of Brazil surprised Germany's fancied Bayer Leverkusen with a 3-0 victory Sunday, clinching the second Al Waha International Youth Soccer Championship. Half-time score was 2-0. The Brazilians had the upper hand in the final with striker Renato Olegario firing them ahead in the 12th minute of the first half. He scored again four minutes later. Substitute Carlos Junio closed off the match with a goal for the champions in the 31st minute of the second half. Earlier, FC Porto of Portugal clinched third place in the 10-nation tournament after Joel Cabral scored a dramatic last minute goal to edge out Egypt's Zamalek 2-1. Half-time score in the playoff match was 1-0.

Late goal sinks United States

CHULAS VISTA, California (AP) — A goal from Bjarki Gunnlaugsson four minutes from time gave Iceland a 2-1 victory in a pre-World Cup friendly international against the United States here Sunday. The United States, who open their World Cup campaign against Switzerland in June, went behind in the first half when Helgi Sigurdsson scored after 20 minutes. Frank Klopas put the home side back on level terms two minutes after the interval when he latched on to a cross from Paul Caligiuri and rifled home a superb left-footed shot. The latest defeat is a major blow to the Americans' morale. So far this year under coach Bora Milutinovic they have won only two, lost three and drawn seven matches.

Moroccan Al Mouaziz wins in Madrid

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Abdelkader Al Mouaziz of Morocco braved torrential rain and low temperatures Sunday to outrun more than 4,000 competitors and win the Madrid Marathon. Al Mouaziz covered the 42-kilometre course in two hours, 17 minutes and 39 seconds. Spalo's Ramiro Matamoros finished second in 2:19.09 while Juan Torres, also of Spain, came third, 14 seconds behind his countryman. The 25-year-old Moroccan led the field from the start along with Russian Vladimir Fomin, who finished fourth in 2:20.18.

Gold medal stolen from Olympic champ

MOSCOW (AP) — A disabled Russian skier appealed Monday for thieves to return the gold medal he won last month in the downhill ski race in Lillehammer, Norway. Alexei Moshkin, 19, was held up Sunday after he accepted a ride in a private car from his Siberian hometown of Kemerovo to accept an award for bravery from President Boris Yeltsin. Moshkin lost both of his legs when he was hit by a train in a childhood accident. He skis with artificial limbs.

Iran turns down sporting offer

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran have bypassed the opportunity to break a 15-year sporting barrier with the United States by turning down an invitation to take part in a wrestling competition in California. Mohammad-Reza Taleghani, vice-president of the Iran Wrestling Federation, said Monday they would not send a team to the international cup at Concord, California, on May 27-28 because they were following government policy. However, he said he had informed the foreign affairs ministry of their wish to compete in a junior event in Chicago June 24-30. Tehran and Washington broke off relations in 1980 and the invitation to Concord was the first time an Iranian sports team had been invited to the U.S. since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Iran had complained last year the U.S. authorities had refused their wrestlers visas to compete in the World Cup.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
1983 Columbia Pictures Inc.

ENLIST THE ENEMY'S AID

Both vulnerable North deals.

NORTH
A 10 7 6
A 3 2
A 6 2
A J 6 3

WEST EAST
A 3 4 2
J 9 8 Q 10 7 6
K Q 10 7 5 4 9 8
A 9 7 10 8 2

SOUTH
A 5 4
3
A 5 4
K 5 4
A 5 4

The bidding:

North East South West

1 Pass 1 ♦ 2 :

2 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of

Once in a while it is obvious that declarer found a simple line to enlist their cooperation. Declarer won the opening lead in dummy and immediately cashed the ace of clubs. The round of trumps were drawn and another diamond ruffed to eliminate the ace of hearts. Then declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts before exiting with a heart.

It made no difference which defender won the heart. If it was West, that defender would have to lead a club up to the king or yield a ruff. If it were East, declarer could guarantee a club trick by simply playing low on the forced club shift. Making four-odd.

Since the enemy were unlikely to open clubs of their own volition, declarer found a simple line to enlist their cooperation. Declarer won the opening lead in dummy and immediately cashed the ace of clubs. The round of trumps were drawn and another diamond ruffed to eliminate the ace of hearts. Then declarer cashed the ace and king of hearts before exiting with a heart.

Note North's opening bid. The phrase "better minor" is actually a misnomer — "longer" minor is the norm. When the choice boils down to between two three-card minors, it

Graf defies threats

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Steffi Graf said here Monday she would defy attack threats at the Hamburg tennis tournament, where Monica Seles was stabbed last year.

The world number one from Germany, responding to an anonymous letter published by the Hamburg Morgenpost, said: "I didn't know about it until I read the newspapers but I am not afraid of these things and don't think much about the threats."

"We don't have to have too much security, because we need to be close to the fans. You can't go out on the street and be afraid, I am not. I've learned to live with the threats."

The letter, which referred to the knife attacks on Seles last year by Graf fan Gunter Parche, read: "Even innocent people could be hurt because we do not play with kitchen knives."

Italian coach for Bayern

MUNICH, Germany (AP) — Giovanni Trapattoni becomes the first Italian to coach a German first division side next season after signing at Bayern Munich Monday.

The 55-year-old, who won six Italian titles and three European trophies with Juventus, signed a one-year contract with an option for another year. He has been released by Juventus.

Franz Beckenbauer, who has been doobing up as vice-president and coach since January, did not want to continue as coach.

Trapattoni, who has already started a crash course in Germany, is on a basic salary of 1.5 million marks (\$800,000).



Vicario defeats Majoli to win La Familia Open

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, the world's No. 2 trounced 16-year-old Iva Majoli of Croatia 6-0, 6-2 in 49 minutes Sunday to win the \$400,000 La Familia Open.

Majoli, the girl seen as one

of the most promising women

tennis players, hardly got a look in against a Sanchez Vicario who won point after point with ease.

Sanchez Vicario won the

first set in just 19 minutes.

"Despite the result, the

truth is I had to fight a lot, and with aggression, against a rival

who I'm convinced will be

among the top 10 in the world

in the future," said Sanchez Vicario.

It was the Spaniard's fourth

time to win the La Familia

Open.

As regards her own future, she said: "I'm preparing for Paris (Roland Garros tournament), because it's the tournament I like most, but I still have unfinished work at Wimbledon, where I have never even made it to the semifinals."

Sunday's final was the

second this season for Majoli

who is ranked No. 27 in the

world and is the youngest full-time

player on the WTA tour.

In semifinal play Saturday,

she defeated the world's No.

14 Magdalena Maleeva 5-7,

6-4, 6-2. In the quarterfinals

she beat world No. 3 Conchita Martinez of Spain.

Sanchez Vicario, the tourna-

ment's top seed and a native of

Barcelona, swamped Germany's Sabine Hack 6-0, 6-1 in

her semifinal.

Robinson takes NBA's scoring title with sensational finale

LOS ANGELES (R) — David Robinson clinched the league scoring title on the final day of the regular season in spectacular fashion Sunday when he became only the fourth player in National Basketball Association (NBA) history to score more than 70 points in a game.

Robinson poured in 71 points in a 112-97 San Antonio victory over the Los Angeles Clippers to edge Shaquille O'Neal for the NBA scoring title.

Robinson came into the game trailing O'Neal by .04 points per game, but his awesome performance Sunday gave him the "admiral," 29.7 average to 29.3 for "Shaq."

Robinson joined Wilt Chamberlain, David Thompson and Elgin Baylor as the only players in NBA history to score 70 or more points in a game. Even Michael Jordan, with all his tremendous performances, never reached that plateau.

The Spurs finished the regular season at 55-27, while the Clippers finished at 27-55, 36 games out of first place.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal scored 32 points as the Magic crushed the New Jersey Nets 120-91 for their 50th win.

O'Neal, who also grabbed 22 rebounds, came into the game needing to score 68 points to pass Robinson for the scoring title.

Orlando, which reached 50 in just their fifth year in the league, is the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs and will host the Indiana Pacers on Thursday.

The Nets ended the season at 45-37.

At Cleveland, the Cavaliers routed the Celtics 107-81 to clinch the sixth playoff spot in the east and a first-round showdown with the defending NBA champion Chicago Bulls.

The Cavaliers finished at 47-35 to edge New Jersey for the sixth playoff spot and earn a chance for post-season revenge. Chicago has eliminated Cleveland from the playoffs in

four of the last six seasons.

The Celtics finished 32-50 for its first 50-loss season since 1979.

In the final regular season game at Chicago Stadium, Patrick Ewing scored eight of his 25 points during a 13-2 third-quarter surge to lead the New York Knicks to a 92-76 win over the Bulls.

New York ended its season at 57-25, tying the championship 1972-73 squad for the third-best record in franchise history.

New York wrapped up the second-best record in the Eastern Conference and will open the playoffs at home against local rivals, the New Jersey Nets.

The Bullets finished 55-27, two games off last year's pace.

In Denver, Gary Payton scored 12 of his 18 points during a 26-6 second-half run to lift the Seattle SuperSonics to a 110-108 victory over the Trail Blazers.

Seattle, which will face Denver in the first round of the playoffs, won 17 of its final 19 games to finish with the best record in the NBA at 63-19.

The Sonics will have home-court advantage throughout the entire playoffs.

Portland ended its season at 47-35.

The Blazers are seeded seventh in the west and will open the playoffs in Houston.

At Washington, Tom Gugliotta scored 31 points and grabbed 18 rebounds as Washington won 117-99 over the Charlotte Hornets in West Undis' final game as coach of the Bullets.

The 48-year-old Hall of Famer, who led the Bullets to a 202-345 record over the last seven seasons, announced his resignation following the game.

Washington ended its season with a 24-58 record to miss the playoffs for the sixth consecutive year. The Hornets, who also failed to qualify for post-season, finished at 41-41.

The Warriors, who had an eight-game winning streak snapped, finished at 50-32.

At Los Angeles, Karl Malone scored 32-50 for his 24 points in the third quarter and John Stockton netted the game's final four points as the Utah Jazz held off the Lakers 103-97.

The Jazz (53-29) won eight of the last nine games to finish fifth in the Western Conference. They will face San Antonio in the first round of the playoffs after beating the Spurs in all five of their meetings this season.

The Lakers finished with a club-record 10 straight losses and will miss the playoffs for the first time since 1976. The Lakers went 5-11 under head coach Magic Johnson, who now said he will not return next season.

In Houston, Robert Pack scored 23 points to power the Denver Nuggets to a 115-107 win over the Rockets.

Rodney Rogers added 16 for the Nuggets, who closed out the season with four wins in their last five games to finish with a 42-40 record.

Scat, which will face Denver in the first round of the playoffs, won 17 of its final 19 games to finish with the best record in the NBA at 63-19.

In Philadelphia, Orlando Woolridge scored six of his 24 points during a key fourth-quarter spurt to lead Philadelphia 76ers to a 110-102 win over Detroit as the Pistons ended the season on a 13-game losing streak.

Philadelphia completed its worst season since 1974 with a 24-58 record. Detroit's 20-62 mark was its worst since 1979-80, when the Pistons were 16-66.

In Sacramento, Spud Webb scored 25 points and Mitch Richmond added 23 to lead the Kings to a 105-97 victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Sacramento ended the season at 28-54 and missed the playoffs for the eighth straight season, the longest streak of any team.

The Warriors, who had an eight-game winning streak snapped, finished at 50-32.

Real Madrid were ejected off the pitch when they were beaten 0-2 at home by Real Sociedad, and Zaragoza went down 3-0 at Valencia.

Bayern Munich stayed top in Germany — two points clear of Kaiserslautern — after clinching a controversial 2-1 victory over Nuremberg.

Nuremberg came off pitch demanding a replay, claiming one of the Bayern goals had failed to cross the line.

Barcelona closed to within two points of pacers Deportivo la Coruna in the race for the Spanish title thanks to an emphatic 4-0 away win against Celta Vigo on Saturday.

Deportivo la Coruna drew 0-0 at Lerida.

Bulgarian front-runner Hristo Stoichov scored twice for Barcellona and Guillermo Amor and Estebaranz were also on target.

With just three matches

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zhirinovsky declines Iraqi invitation

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky has declined an invitation from Saddam Hussein to attend his 57th birthday celebrations, saying he has political obligations in Russia, sources close to Dr. Zhirinovsky said Monday. Mr. Zhirinovsky, president of the far-right Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), had been invited to go to Baghdad for the celebrations Thursday, an LDP representative said. He could not go because Thursday was the day scheduled for signature in Moscow of a civil peace pact, aimed at preventing political violence in Russia. Mr. Zhirinovsky has indicated that he will sign the document. The LDP representative said it was possible another LDP leader might go to Baghdad in Mr. Zhirinovsky's place. Mr. Zhirinovsky gave his backing to Iraq during the Gulf war, and sponsored the sending of Russian volunteers to fight on the side of the Iraqi forces. At the beginning of April, he invited the Iraqi leader to the LDP congress. President Saddam did not go, but sent a delegation from Iraq's ruling party.

Wife of Hebron killer complains to police

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The wife of Hebron killer Baruch Goldstein has complained to police for failing to seek out the Palestinians who beat him to death after he massacred more than 30 worshippers in a mosque in the West Bank town, Israeli police said Monday. Spokesman Eric Bar Chen said Myriam Goldstein filed her complaint on Friday at the police station in Kyrat Arba, the Jewish settlement where she and her husband lived on the edge of Hebron. She urged police to find the Palestinians who beat her husband to death with iron bars after he gunned down worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque on Feb. 25, the spokesman told AFP. The supreme court, meanwhile, turned down calls from Tel Aviv lawyers to evict the only Arab judge on the committee of inquiry into the massacre. Ahmad Zoabi, and dismissed allegations that he was biased against settlers.

Manila approves sending workers to Israel

MANILA (AP) — The Department of Labour and employment has endorsed sending Filipino farm workers to Israel following that country's decision to hire more foreigners to replace Arab labourers. Labour Under-Secretary Jose Brilantes said in a departmental memo that the Philippines would benefit because workers would return home with advanced farming skills. "By officially allowing Filipino workers to Israel, we shall also be able to legalise the status of more than 15,000 Filipinos now working in Israel as tourists and undocumented aliens," Mr. Brilantes said. Currently, the department has certified only maids and babysitters for work in Israel because of the uncertain security situation and the abundance of Arab labour there. The Israeli cabinet recently approved plans to increase hiring of foreigners to replace Arabs from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Iran blames Iraq-based group for attack

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said a man arrested after an attack on an Iranian cleric last week had links with the dissident Iraq-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq organisation (MKO), the official Iranian IRNA news agency said. An information (intelligence) ministry official identified the man responsible for shooting Hojatoleslam Mohammad Abaei Khorasan in the holy city of Mashhad after Friday prayers, as Ali Houri, nick-named Popi. "The information ministry official, asked to comment on the motives of the attack, said the MKO because of its nature will not abandon its terrorism," IRNA reported late on Sunday. The group, often blamed by Tehran for acts of sabotage and shootings, has denied responsibility for the attack. Houri tried to kill himself after the attack and the Iranian official said he later underwent surgery at Imam Reza hospital in Mashhad. Hajatoleslam Khorasan, who was hit by two bullets in the back, was recovering at Qazvin hospital, said the official who was identified by IRNA simply as Musavi-Nejad.

Rabbi calls for Arafat's assassination

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Rabbi Shlomo Goren, a former Israeli army chaplain, called Monday for the murder of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. "If a Jew decides to eliminate the biggest of murderers, Yasser Arafat, who is the Hitler of our day, I will support him and declare a holiday on the day of his assassination," the Rabbi told Ma'ariv newspaper. Rabbi Goren, who was chaplain during the 1967 Middle East war when Israel seized the West Bank and Gaza Strip, called for the creation of an organisation "to prevent Arafat from stepping foot on our territory." A fierce opponent of the Israel-Palestinian accord on Palestinian self-rule, the Rabbi has already urged soldiers to disobey orders if the government decided to dismantle Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Conference of Somali factions postponed

NAIROBI (AFP) — A conference bringing together the main factions in Somalia and due to have begun in Mogadishu on Monday has been postponed, a United Nations spokesman said. A new date for the session, which is to prepare the ground for a conference of national reconciliation, has not been fixed, but spokesman George Bennett told AFP by telephone from Mogadishu that the meeting was likely to be held early next month. The idea of holding the preparatory conference came into being on March 24 when faction leader Mohamud Farah Aideed and his rival, self-styled President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, signed a U.N.-brokered national reconciliation agreement in Nairobi.

Two Israeli-allied militiamen wounded

MARJAYOUN (AP) — A roadside bomb exploded in South Lebanon Monday, wounding two members of a patrol of Israeli-allied militiamen, security sources said. Hizbullah guerrillas claimed responsibility for the attack. Security sources said the 10:15 a.m. (0715 GMT) bomb went off as a mechanised patrol of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia drove through the village of Rihan in Israel's so-called "security zone" in southern Lebanon. The Rihan area is a key infiltration route used by guerrillas of Hizbullah to attack Israeli troops and SLA militiamen. The main road linking the town of Jezzine with Marjayoun, another major town in the enclave Israel occupies in South Lebanon, passes through Rihan.

Iran sues group for abducting diplomats

BEIRUT (R) — Iran is suing a banned Lebanese Christian group for kidnapping three Iranian diplomats during the Lebanese civil war. Tehran's ambassador to Beirut said on Monday. Homayoun Alizadeh told reporters the law suit charged Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen with kidnapping Taqi Rastegar Moqaddam, Kazem Akhavan and Ahmad Motevasselian in 1982 at a roadblock. He said he relayed a message to Foreign Minister Faris Bouez from his Iranian counterpart Ali Velayati informing him of the case. Security sources believe the three Iranians and their Lebanese driver Mohsen Mousawi were killed shortly after their abduction at the LF checkpoint at the village of Barara in northern Lebanon. LF chief Samir Geagea and several of his followers are under arrest in connection with a February church bombing and the assassination of a Christian rival in 1990.

Pakistani opposition decides to resign

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Opposition members of Parliament (MPs) on Monday decided to resign en masse in protest against "unconstitutional" changes in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), former Premier Nawaz Sharif said here. Mr. Sharif told a news conference that the MPs handed their signed resignation letters to him, "authorising me to submit them to the house speaker at an appropriate time."



SEARCHING FOR CLUES: South African policemen with dogs look towards a victim who died in an explosion in a township outside Johannesburg on Monday. At least 10 people were killed in the car-bomb (see page one) (AFP photo)

Israel cannot keep Golani and have peace with Syria — Peres

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel cannot keep the occupied Golani Heights if it wants peace with Syria. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Monday.

Parliamentary sources quoted Mr. Peres as telling the Labour parliamentary group that "any reasonable person knows you cannot have peace and still keep the Golani."

"It is clear that any Israeli withdrawal will mean the dismantling of Jewish settlements (on the Golani)," he said.

On Thursday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave the clearest signal so far that he would evacuate Israeli settlements from the Golani in return for peace with Syria.

"For me the importance of the Golani plateau is above all for security, whether there are settlements on it or not," he said. "If we have to take down settlements for peace, I was and I am in favour of that."

Israel seized the Golani during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Another Syrian newspaper Monday accused Mr. Rabin of using his current visit to Moscow to encourage further emigration of Russian Jews for settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

The daily, Al Baath, organ of the ruling Baath Party, said

the effort contradicted Mr. Rabin's recent statements about dismantling settlements in the Golani Heights.

"How could anyone accept the idea of dismantling the settlements and establishing new ones instead?" it asked.

Mr. Rabin began a four-day visit to Moscow Monday by meeting with his Russian counterpart, Victor Chernomyrdin, to discuss the Middle East peace process (see separate story). Russia is co-sponsoring the peace talks with the United States.

Another topic on Mr. Rabin's agenda is emigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union. Since the Soviet Union loosened restrictions on emigration in the late 1980s, more than 400,000 Jews have moved to Israel.

"Rabin's primary talk in the Russian capital will centre on the issue of bringing new Russian Jews for settlement in occupied Arab territories," Al Baath claimed.

Russia signs agreements with Israel, assures Jews of safety

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia and Israel signed a series of accords Monday to strengthen trade ties as Moscow downplayed fears of anti-Semitism, saying Jews were safe here despite a surge of anti-Semitic forces in the country.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, quoted by Itar-Tass, admitted that there were forces in Russia that sought "to make the situation more tense by stressing the national question," but said anti-Semitic and fascist groups had only marginal support.

"A substantial number of Jews live in Russia. But they are not threatened by any anti-Semitism," Mr. Chernomyrdin stated in what Itar-Tass news agency described as an "emotional" response to reporter's questions.

"No Zhirinovsky can unleash a wave of anti-Semitism," the Russian premier added, referring to the ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, whose public appearances are often punctuated by strongly anti-Semitic remarks.

Mr. Chernomyrdin told Interfax news agency that he and Mr. Rabin had also instructed their delegation to prepare a "wide-ranging" bilateral trade and economic pact which he said could be signed during Mr. Rabin's four-day visit to Russia.

On the Mideast, Mr. Chernomyrdin stated that Russia's position remained "unchanged" and was centred on the need for a peaceful, negotiated accord on Palestinian self-rule.

Russia, along with the United States, remains a co-sponsor of the Mideast peace process launched in September 1991 in Madrid, but up to now has had little real influence on the course of Israeli-Arab peace talks.

Earlier this year, President Boris Yeltsin dispatched a special envoy to the region in an effort to raise Russia's profile in the negotiations.

But a subsequent proposal from Moscow to organise a "second Madrid" international conference on the Mideast was received coolly by the United States and essentially rejected by Israel as unnecessarily complicated.

Moscow last week hosted Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on a three-day visit and reaffirmed its support.

Palestinians pin high hopes on Christopher trip

By Wafa Amr in Occupied Jerusalem

DESPITE AMERICAN attempts to downplay expectations from the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) believes it will result in rapid progress on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks of negotiations with Israel.

PLO officials said it was highly likely an agreement would be signed on Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho would be signed in the first week of May. But PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would wait three or four weeks after the signing before he enters the self-rule areas, until all Israeli troops conclude their pullout.

Both Israel and the PLO anxious to start the implementation of the September self-rule deal, are willing to sign the withdrawal accord before all disputed issues were resolved, PLO officials said.

"We expect an agreement to be signed in May 4 or May 5," one PLO official said.

The official said there were disagreements in the Fatah Central Committee meetings talks place in Tunis this week

over whether to sign the agreement before all issues were resolved or if the PLO should go ahead and sign, leaving some disputed issues for negotiations after withdrawal.

There are also differences between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres over how speedy implementation of the autonomy accord should be. Mr. Rabin, Israeli sources said, wants all issues resolved before signing the accord.

"Four issues remain unresolved, and the Fatah Central Committee is divided over how to approach the signing of the withdrawal agreement," a Fatah Central Committee member attending the Tunis meetings said.

He said the unresolved issues were a Palestinian passport, the self-rule's code number for phone lines, the self-rule's postal stamp and some matters concerning jurisdiction.

Other issues such as security matters, withdrawal, the Palestinian police force's entry to Gaza and Jericho, jurisdiction, etc... have been agreed when Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas was in Cairo for negotiations three weeks ago.

جامعة الدول العربية

11 militant suspects shot dead in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — A man described as the most wanted Islamic militant in Egypt was killed along with 10 other suspected fundamentalists in two shootouts on Monday, security sources said.

Taalaat Yassin Hammam and six other militants were shot dead in a flat in the east Cairo suburb of Kobri Al Kobba when police went to arrest them early on Monday morning, the sources said.

Police said the militants opened fire first but it is not known if any policemen were killed or hurt. Interior Ministry officials were not available for comment.

Hammam was sentenced to death in absentia in 1992 for belonging to an illegal organisation and trying to overthrow the Egyptian government.

He and the other militants

on trial were believed to have fought alongside Afghan Mujahideen during the Soviet occupation in the 1980s and were known as Arab Afghans.

Police said he was the leader of militants fighting to set up an Islamic state in Egypt and that he was the link with militant leaders in exile.

Police found a fax machine

in the flat where Hammam was killed. They said it was used to relay information between

and others.

Jordan insists on maintaining the boycott until a peaceful settlement is reached with Israel and Amman reaffirmed

the position last month at an Arab League meeting in Cairo.

Dr. Majali, pointing out that

there were many exceptions to the boycott, said the military had purchased Motorola equipment and spare parts, including the walkie talkies it now uses.

He said Motorola equipment

had been widely used in the Arab World, justifying why Jordan may accept Motorola's offer, which came first in the bids. The group's offer was JD38 million, almost twice that of the second highest bidder.

Minister of Telecommunications Tareq Subeihat said earlier that it was "a political decision" whether to award Motorola the contract if it meets all other requirements.

Jordan has come under American and European pressure to ease the boycott of Israel, which was implemented 43 years ago to isolate the Jewish state and prevent Jewish members from carrying out any commercial activity with it.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, in a visit to the region last January, said fresh American investment in Jordan depended on removal of trade barriers and the lifting of the secondary boycott that primarily affects U.S. companies.

Jordan has adopted a case-by-case approach to the secondary and tertiary boycott, according to officials and diplomats.

COLUMN 8**Prince Edward walks down the aisle...**

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Edward caused a stir in the tabloid press Monday by walking down the aisle with his girlfriend Sophie Rhys-Jones, but only as a guest at a royal cousin's wedding. The 30-year-old budding television producer and his publicist girlfriend, 29, put in a joint appearance Sunday at a high-society wedding, adding fuel to media speculation of a flooring royal romance. The wedding outing coincided with mounting expectation that Prince Edward, a former theatre assistant who has now established his own television production company, will soon

announce his engagement to Ms. Rhys-Jones. The couple travelled together to the wedding in Suffolk, eastern England, and were accompanied by the queen's sister Princess Margaret, who acted as a royal chaperone to Princess Diana during her engagement to Prince Charles. The popular press, relishing the possibility of a royal darting to replace Princess Diana, cocooned in delight at Ms. Rhys-Jones's dramatic outfit — a scarlet mandarin-style jacket and long black skirt split to the thigh. Today newspaper called the occasion a dress rehearsal for a royal wedding later this year. The tabloids have christened Ms. Rhys-Jones the spitting image of the young Princess Diana because of her short blonde hair but the public relations executive is older, shorter and more overtly confident than the putative princess was.

The prince, the queen's youngest child, is said to be keen to have a low-key wedding, in contrast to his elder brothers Prince Andrew and Charles whose spectacular nuptials ended only in broken marriages. The reports of the wedding said the prince and Ms. Rhys-Jones sat side-by-side in the church pew and listened intently as their friends, Lord Ivar Mountbatten and Penny Thompson, made their marriage vows.

Australian hero's ashes scattered at death railway

HELLFIRE PASS, Thailand (R) — The ashes of Australian war hero Sir Edward Dunlop were scattered Monday in a ceremony recalling the ordeal of allied prisoners of war who worked on this stretch of Japan's infamous "death railway."

"Weary" Dunlop, as he was known to Australians for the way he fought fatigue to save hundreds of lives, asked before he died in Melbourne last year that his remains be sent to join those of World War II comrades lost at Hellfire Pass. About 500 people, including Dunlop's sons John and Alexander, diplomats and Australian survivors, took part in an early-morning ceremony illuminated by candles to recreate the eerie, tomb-like atmosphere of the pass in wartime 1943. Prisoners gave this section of the railway the name Hellfire Pass because the naked, skeleton-like figures slaving in the half-light seemed to conjure up visions of the inferno. Using minimal equipment, the prisoners of war (PoWs) worked 12 to 18-hour shifts for 12 weeks, cutting through solid rock and soil to cleave the mountain pass. Two-thirds of the 1,000 PoWs working on the pass died and were buried in a nearby cemetery.

Schindler's list wins top U.K. film award

LONDON (AP) — Schindler's List, Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning film about the holocaust was named the year's best film by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, and won Spielberg another trophy for Best Director. Spielberg came to the stage again to receive the People's Film Award for Jurassic Park. "Between Schindler and Jurassic, I'm going to need years of therapy," Spielberg joked about the disparity between the two pictures. The director later appeared at the end of the ceremony to present a Special Achievement Award to British actor-director Lord Attenborough, who starred in Jurassic Park. The Best Actress prize went to Holly Hunter for her performance in The Piano, for which she won the Oscar last month.